The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor concerning in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 26, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 12, 1918.

WE PLEDGE—
1 BILLION DOLLARS
IN
WAR SAVINGS BONDS
FOR VICTORY

WHOLE NO. 1707 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1943 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 32, NO. 52

FACING the FACTS
With PHILIP PEARL

President Roosevelt's Christmas Eve broadcast to the world contained a deep and sustained note of reassurance for those of us who had begun to wonder whether the United Nations were preparing to lower their sights on pre-announced postwar objectives.

Ugly stories had been circulated while the conferences at Cairo and Teheran were in progress—stories which, if true, were ominous for human reparations by the Russians, of plans to enslave German workers after the war, of steps which would effectively prevent a resurgence of war during the next generation but might provoke new outbreaks of war in the following generation.

These reports were particularly disturbing to organized labor. They made us wonder whether the Four Freedoms were being abandoned. They made us ponder on the validity of our repeated pledges to the liberal and working ers of the Axis nations—that we were fighting to free them, not to subject them to another era of forced labor under new masters.

It is gratifying to report that President Roosevelt in his address effectively dispelled these disquieting reports. His statement was clear and unequivocal. He upheld the cause of freedom not on a sentimental basis, but as the only practical solution of the world's ills.

We think that the following paragraphs from his speech are especially worth reading and remembering:

The President Reports

"During the last two days at Teheran, Marshal Stalin, Mr. Churchill and I looked ahead to the days and years which will follow German's defeat. We were united in determination that Germany must be stripped of her military might and be given no opportunity within the foreseeable future to plunge that might.

"The United Nations have no intention to enslave the German people. We wish them to have a normal chance to develop, in peace, as useful and respectable members of the European family. But we most certainly emphasize that world 'respectable'—for we intend to rid them once for all of Nazism and Prussian militarism and the fantastic and disastrous notion that they constitute the 'master race.'

"We did discuss international relationships from the point of view of big, broad objectives, rather than details. But on the basis of what we did discuss, I can say even today that I do not think any insoluble differences will arise among Russia, Great Britain and the United States.

"When conferences are concerned with basic principles—principles which involve the security and the welfare and the standard of living of human beings in countries large and small."

The Plans For Peace

The President was no less explicit with regard to postwar peace plans in his report. He rejected the objective of a temporary peace or a twenty-year armistice and insisted that we must strive for lasting peace—even if the use of force is necessary to effectuate it.

Naturally, in discussing the threats to future peace, the President limited the scope of his remarks to Germany and Japan, the perennially aggressor nations. It is more than conceivable, however, that the plans for a lasting peace now shaping up will take into account actions by any nation, even those now allied with us in the war. The President said:

"The overwhelming majority of all the people in the world want peace. Most of them are fighting for the attainment of peace—not just a truce, not just an armistice—but peace that is as strongly enforced and as durable as mortal man can make it. If we are willing to fight for peace now, is it not good logic that we should use force if necessary, in the future, to keep the peace?

"I believe, and I think I can say that the other three great nations who are fighting so magnificently to gain peace are in complete agreement that we must be prepared to keep the peace by force. If the people of Germany and Japan are made to realize thoroughly that the world is not going to let them break out again, it is possible, and I hope probable, that they will abandon the philosophy of aggression—the belief that they can gain the whole world even at the risk of losing their own souls."

To all of this labor says "Amen."

War Profits Will "Shock" America, Officials Warn In Hot Tax Fight

Washington, D. C.—Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau's charge that proposed changes in the tax laws regarding renegotiation of war contracts to "coddle the needs of a national scandal," were followed up by official denunciation of war profiteering from many Administration sources.

Senator Walsh of Massachusetts declared that the American people "will be shocked" when the profits already made on war contracts are disclosed.

Under Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson asserted that some of the employers who "holler the loudest" for changes in the renegotiation law are making as much as 50 per cent net work profits.

Senator Walsh made it clear he will oppose the proposed changes in the renegotiation law when the tax bill comes up before the Senate for debate. He said:

"In my opinion, there will never be another period more favorable for obtaining from the taxpayers a larger contribution to the costs of the war.

"The renegotiation law is, to be sure, arbitrary and only justified in time of war, but so is the drafting of human life.

"We owe it to our fighting forces to eliminate as far as humanly possible excessive war profits, as well as to remove the possibility of a new crop of war profiteers. Profits outside of what are reasonable and legitimate and necessary for long-term development of private industry after the war, are indefensible.

"Unless the record of profit making on war contracts is disclosed, the American people will, in my opinion, be misled."

Secretary Patterson declared that profiteering in war industries is still widespread, despite enforcement of the renegotiation provisions.

"We are doing our best to prevent profiteering," he said.

As to specific complaints to Congress from industry, the War Department's contract renegotiation program was investigated by three different Congressional committees, Mr. Patterson said, and in all three "they came to the conclusion we were doing a good, fair job and there was nothing to the complaints."

Mr. Patterson acknowledged that the renegotiation contract board may have permitted industries generally to make too much money on their war contracts. He conceded there was a possibility of future censure from Congress on this.

Mr. Patterson, discussing the case of the Timken Detroit Axle Co., said a new contract was in process of negotiation. He said that Willard F. Rockwell, Timken official, had charged that the War Department was threatening to cancel a Timken contract with the Ordnance Department.

Mr. Patterson explained that the company had made an annual average of $2,000,000 in profits. In 1942, he said, the company had income profit before taxes which was nearly twenty times the average annual profits from 1939 to 1940, which represented a 53 per cent profits markup on volume of sales, and that after taxes—and before renegotiation—it made about $5,000,000, which, Mr. Patterson said, represented two and one-half times its profits on average earlier years after taxes and a 22 per cent markup on the net book worth of the company.

"That showed," Mr. Patterson said, "that in (Rockwell) had not been robbed."

Rail Unions Call Off Strike; Wage Settlement Up To FDR

AFL Victory Halts Strike Threat

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor won a big victory for its no-strike policy when the workers at the Basic Magnesium, Inc., plant at Las Vegas, Nev., voted against a walkout in an election conducted by the National Labor Relations Board under the War Labor Disputes Act.

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Total votes cast	2,941
Against strike	1,700
For strike	1,219
Void	22

The AFL unions representing the workers under a closed-shop contract were lined up solidly against the proposed strike. The CIO, however, conducted an elaborate campaign by radio, by sound-truck, and by mass meetings and circulars to induce the workers to vote for authorization of a strike. The CIO is contesting the right of the AFL unions to represent the workers at Basic Magnesium.

Mrs. Roosevelt Accepts Invitation To AFL Executive Council Meeting

Washington, D. C.—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt has accepted an invitation to visit the quarterly meeting of the AFL Executive Council which opens in Miami on Jan. 17.

Mrs. Roosevelt will show members of the council movies of her recent trip to the South Pacific and will tell them of the conditions she found at the war fronts.

The Executive Council is expected to consider at the meeting preliminary reports of the AFL's Postwar Committee on matters which require immediate action by the government, by industry and by labor.

The council will also act on the outstanding issues of the war program, including unsatisfactory wage conditions, the failure to keep prices in line, the need for continuation of subsidies, new aspects of the war production program and other important matters.

Airline Pilots Helped U. S. Victory Over Japs In Aleutian Islands

Washington, D. C.—America's victory in the Aleutian Islands might never have been achieved without the brilliant service of commercial airline pilots who are members of the AFL Airline Pilots Association, the Office of War Information revealed.

This little known chapter of the war tells an inspiring story of courage and daring by the airline pilots who flew planes, troops and military equipment in all weathers to Alaska and Dutch Harbor when the Japs opened their drive on the Aleutian Islands, June 3, 1942. With the help of these reinforcements, the armed forces were able to repel the attack and later to take the offensive and drive the Japs out.

Retaking of the Attu island from the Japs would "have been postponed for months, according to naval officers, if air transport had not been able to fly men and cargo quickly and in great quantity," the OWI statement said.

"The airline to anywhere" is the way OWI described the crews and pilots, in land planes provided by the Army and seaplanes by the Navy, who are keeping operating the "world's largest fleet of world's largest aircraft in existence."

Although the nation's 18 domestic and 3 international airlines have given half their planes and one-third of their men to the armed forces, they are carrying more than twice as much cargo as before the war and nearly twice as much mail. And they transport only about 25 per cent fewer passengers, OWI said.

Woll Answers Soviet Attack

New York City.—In a sharp reply to a Soviet attack upon leaders of the AFL as "reactionaries," Matthew Woll in a speech sampling communism in Moscow of striking a "blow at Allied unity" and of unwarrantedly interfering in the internal affairs of the United States and the American labor movement.

The Soviet attack was contained in an article printed in "War And The Working Class," official organ of the Soviet government-dominated trade unions. AFL leaders singled out for criticism in the article included William Green, David Dubinsky and Isidore Nagler, president and vice president of the ILGWU, and William L. Hutcheson, president of the International Brotherhood of Carpenters. The Soviet publication, in its criticism, have opposed "national and international unity," have prevented united action by the AFL and CIO, and have waged war against the Soviet trade unions.

The partial text of Mr. Woll's vigorous reply follows:

"This attack is a blow at allied unity. The Soviet should not be stressed at this time as they would inevitably have to be stressed if we were to enter into a formal relationship with the Soviet 'trade unions,' which are not trade unions at all but instruments of a totalitarian state.

"Military collaboration with Soviet Russia does not require the American Federation of Labor to collaborate in Soviet policy as it affects problems of domestic trade union organization or practice. It does not require that we abandon our trade union principles and practices in order to maintain unity and integrity of our labor movement to help promote the communistic conception of social and labor organization.

"We had hoped that this matter would not be permitted to become the subject of disruptive controversy at this critical time. It is a pity that Moscow insists upon pursuing the discussion and slandering, in the traditional communist manner, the leaders of millions of American workers."

Senate Group Hits Employer Tactics In Los Angeles And San Francisco

Washington, D. C.—The Senate Civil Liberties Committee charged that organized employers have deliberately attempted to bolster collective bargaining in Los Angeles and have unduly interfered with it in San Francisco.

The charges were contained in the sixth and seventh sections of a report by the committee to the United States Senate on extensive investigations into West Coast conditions over more than a decade. The committee is composed of Senators Robert M. LaFollette and Elbert D. Thomas.

In Los Angeles the committee found that "the most influential business and financial interests have deliberately attempted to sabotage the national labor policy of collective bargaining as expressed in the National Labor Relations Act." The report added:

"Despite the enactment of that law and its declared constitutionality by the United States Supreme Court, these interests and employers have determined to nullify it not only by negative but also by positive action. Pursuant to this determination they have engaged in a series of organized conspiracies to destroy labor's civil liberties. They sought to prevent, to hinder, to impede collective bargaining from obtaining a strong foothold in the urban community of Los Angeles, and in the tributary business and agricultural areas.

"To carry out their conspiracy, they set up various employers' associations and auxiliary groups of women, businessmen, agriculturists, and even employes. They lavishly financed these organizations and in most part supplied them with a type of professional personnel that by reason of their background was wholly out of sympathy with trade-unionism. They concluded alliances with the local press, the police, local law-enforcement officials, and local business organizations. Behind their program of anti-social policy they concentrated economic and political power that defied any application of the law and custom of the nation.

"Another significant aspect of the conduct of the employers' associations was the determination, based upon the record, that the anti-labor activities of the organized employers were backed and sponsored by other groups in the city such as the banking and financial groups, certain leaders of the local press, and, until recently, many of the public officials. In this connection the committee observed:

"This made the situation peculiarly difficult for trade-unions and for those public officials whose duty it was to protect the rights of labor. The very spectacle of a local chamber of commerce, comprising the sum total of the business influence in the community, actually dictating and stimulating the development of tactics after tactics to defeat the national labor policy, aired economic and social purpose."

made anything but the strongest measures protective of labor's civil rights seem futile. The creation and maintenance of this policy of anti-unionism in Los Angeles for magnitude and versatility of its effort far surpasses anything the committee has previously encountered in its four-year inquiry."

Of San Francisco, Attorney Anthony Eaton of Los Angeles, famed during the 1930's as a stronghold of antiunion employers, said: "There is an intense form the problems which are prevalent in other urban and industrial areas, where influential forces dominating the entire community refused to accept the national labor policy. In the final statement on the importance of this issue, the committee report stated:

"The Nation as a whole is but a symbol of many other areas in various parts of the country where the exercise of labor's rights and the practice of collective bargaining are met with hostility, and where employers, organized and determined to nullify it not only by negative but also by positive action. Pursuant to this determination they have engaged in a series of organized conspiracies to destroy labor's civil liberties. They sought to prevent, to hinder, to impede collective bargaining from obtaining a strong foothold in the urban community of Los Angeles, and in the tributary business and agricultural areas.

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ILO Conference On Post-War Plans To Be Held In Philadelphia April 20

London, England.—The American Federation of Labor won a significant victory in the field of international labor when, at its request, the International Labor Organization decided to hold its next international labor conference in America.

The place will be Philadelphia and the date April 20, 1944. Robert J. Watt, the AFL's international labor representative announced after a preliminary ILO meeting here. Mr. Watt flew here from Washington to press the AFL's request.

Under Secretary Anthony Eden put the British government on record as supporting the conference decision, Observers as the body best suited to handle that field in the postwar reconstruction plans of the United Nations.

The approval of the United States was clearly indicated by invitations of John G. Winant, United States Ambassador, at the final session of the ILO meeting and the fact that Dr. Goodrich, American government delegate, presided.

Mr. Eden put into words what many observers had suspected, namely, that the British Government wished to do all in their power to recognize the ILO as an important factor in international relations.

Thus efforts of left-wing groups to switch determination of postwar labor programs to a so-called "world" conference of labor to be held here in June were checkmated.

Mr. Eden said, "to see the ILO become the main instrument for giving effect to the social side of the Atlantic Charter. Improved labor standards, economic adjustment and social security—in those eight words is epitomized.

"United action by employers, seeming to accept collective bargaining, became allied to forces that sought to destroy or weaken the labor unions. Unfair pressure tactics in the bargaining process occasionally rendered nugatory the rights of decision, while interferences appeared which are more difficult to hold up for public condemnation than the use of labor espionage or professional strike breakers. Even the acceptance of the forms of collective bargaining concealed efforts to thwart and weaken its declared economic and social purpose."

omitted the social objective of the United Nations. It is good to set an objective, but we must work together if it is to be effective."

He mentioned the "grave problems and dangers as well as opportunities which will face the world during the transition from the disruption of war —far more complete than ever before in recorded history—to settled conditions of peace" and said that among them the three groups making up the ILO membership (governments, employers and workers) could work out "a comprehensive program of labor and industrial reconstruction.

"Our united objective is a world organized that there will be employment for all, that the world will be employed in the interests not of the few, and that on this basis the nations will join together to pursue peace and remove the danger of war breaking out again."

The governing body announced a seven-point agenda for the preparation of its "social mandate" to the United Nations, to be drawn up at the Philadelphia conference. The agenda follows:

1. A future policy program and definition of ILO's status.

2. Recommendations to the United Nations for present and postwar social policy.

3. Organization of employment in the transition period from war to peace.

4. Social security: Its principles and problems arising out of war.

5. Minimum standards of social policy in dependent territories.

6. Reports to the convention in accordance with the constitution.

7. Directors' reports.

AFL STEAMFITTERS SUPPLY COMFORTS FOR SOLDIERS

Portland, Ore.—Marine and Steamfitters Union, Local No. 350 (AFL) of Portland that traveling service men and women coming to this city shall be welcomed and made comfortable.

Last summer the union donated $15,000 to provide a modern attractive building to serve as quarters for a Red Cross canteen and USO lounge. Located only a few steps from Union Station, the center offered facilities for a shower and for baggage checking and good hot food.

When canteen activities expanded to the point where the original quarters were too small to accommodate them, the union again stepped forward with funds to finance an addition, which will provide enlarged supply room facilities, more dressing rooms for men and women, many more showers, washrooms and check rooms.

FDR Authorizes In-Plant Feeding; Keenan To Direct New WPB Program

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt directed the War and Navy Departments, and the Maritime Commission to set aside adequate funds for the in-plant feeding of workers in war industries.

At the same time, War Production Director Donald Nelson urged management to establish facilities whereby war workers can be supplied with nutritious food.

"I call on managements of war industries," he said, "to provide or improve in-plant feeding facilities if adequate provision does not already exist to care for the needs of their workers. Experience shows that better nutrition among industrial workers promotes productive efficiency, whereas poor feeding habits encourage fatigue and in many cases has lowered productivity by causing excessive fatigue, absenteeism, sickness and accidents."

Nelson authorized WPB Vice Chairman Joseph D. Keenan, in cooperation with WPB industry divisions, to determine the need for industrial feeding in individual plants and to certify the need of urgency in each place.

Local unions which are in a position to know of specific cases where in-plant feeding facilities for workers are inadequate should communicate at once with Mr. Keenan.

UNION GIVES INSTRUMENTS TO ARMY DRUM-BUGLE CORPS

Henderson, Ky.—A gift of instruments for the drum and bugle corps at nearby Camp Breckinridge brought a message of hearty thanks from the camp's commanding officer to Local 601, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners (AFL), the donor.

The gift was made through the Red Cross Camp and Hospital Service Council.

Signed by Major Francis W. Parks, QMC, a letter to the union said:

"You have just given to the Drum and Bugle Corps of this unit, through the American Red Cross, the major portion of their required instruments. Without these instruments there would have been no such drum corps."

President To Arbitrate The Remaining Issues That Threatened Tieup

Washington, D. C.—The railroad unions averted a dangerous nationwide transportation tieup, threatening a strike call set for Dec. 30 and submitting their wage disputes to President Roosevelt for final arbitration.

The log jam was broken when the 15 non-operating unions, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, agreed to a peaceful settlement of the controversy. Thus the AFL record of not authorizing a single major strike in the course of the war was kept intact.

The President ordered the Army to take over the railroads when it appeared that a strike was inevitable. At that time two of the operating unions and all of the non-operating groups had already called off the walkout, but the remaining three operating unions had not yet acted. They were expected to follow the example of the other unions and it was believed the President would thereupon return the roads to private management.

An inkling of the terms of settlement came from a White House announcement that the President's action to the members of the engineers' and trainmen's unions. He decided they should get an increase of 5 cents an hour in lieu of overtime claims, plus the retroactive pay, but that this is in addition to a previous 4 cents an hour wage increase.

It is expected that the non-operating unions also will be awarded 5 cents an hour and a week's vacation with pay. This would be in addition to sliding scale wage increases of from 4 to 10 cents an hour for all members approved by Economic Stabilization Director Vinson, retroactive to Feb 1.

The White House said there appeared to be some difference of opinion between the unions and the carriers as to the scope of the questions to be arbitrated by the President, but it is believed this misunderstanding will be promptly ironed out.

The non-operating unions notified the President of their acceptance of arbitration in the following letter:

"On Nov. 1, Hon. Harry L. Hopkins, Director of Economic Stabilization, approved a sliding scale of wage adjustments for the non-operating group and provided these increase should become effective on Nov. 16. We protested against these increases, but when we did not feel they were sufficient to settle the problem.

"We have now concluded to abandon any further objections to Judge Vinson's order making these increases effective retroactive to Feb. 1, 1943.

"However, in view of recent offers made by the carriers to grant to the operating group the benefits of the Fair Labor Standards Act in respect to overtime for the sixth day in any work week, we feel that the equities of the situation require that this consideration be extended to the non-operating group.

"While we prefer the benefits of this overtime be distributed in a pro rata amount to all employes, if that is impossible to do so you will accept the literal application of the Fair Labor Standards Act provisions oh overtime.

"Therefore, there is no longer any dispute over the amount of wage increase to be granted to our group. The only remaining question in dispute is half time for nonoperating groups the benefits of overtime after forty hours per week offered to the operating group. We agree to the decision on this single question in dispute to the President of the United States and agree to accept his decision.

"Having, with your assistance, accomplished our immediate objectives, we are withdrawing approval heretofore granted to the employes to stop work at 6 p.m. on Dec. 30, 1943.

"We thank you for your assistance in this difficult matter."

Signers were George M. Harrison, J. J. Duffy, J. A. Franklin, Felix H. Knight, W. P. Gardner, S. J. Hogan, James J. Delaney, George Wright, Roy Horn, E. E. Milliman, A. E. Lyon, Lawrence M. Wickhorst, Joseph P. Ryan, H. J. Carr and B. M. Jewell.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS HIT NEW PEAK IN OHIO

Columbus, Ohio.—Claims for 92 fatal injuries were filed in August by the Ohio Industrial Commission, the Industrial Commission of Ohio reported. "The largest number of new claims in any one day in the eight month was received in August when 32,000 such claims were reported," the commission said. "This for this year over 222,000 non-fatal claims were received by the commission, a total 6 per cent over 15,000 higher than the record for the same period last year."

MILLING PLANT WORKERS ELECT AFL AFFILIATE

Washington, D. C.—The employes of the Hubbard (Milling Co., Mankato, Minn., registered a large majority for affiliation with the AFL Federal Labor Union No. 21656 in an election to select a collective bargaining representative, Organizer Wm. F. Wright, St. Paul, Minn., reported to AFL President William Green. The vote was 46 for the AFL to 10 for no union.